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Fifty-second year

Letter dated 28 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention new and serious Turkish actions in violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus. According to information received by the Republic of Cyprus and also to reports in the Turkish press, three warships of the Turkish Navy, namely a frigate Fatih and two gunboats Dogan and Gurbet, sailed on 25 January and docked at the closed port of Famagusta in the occupied part of Cyprus. The warships, according to Turkish press reports, are to remain in the port for a period of five days.

On behalf of my Government I wish to protest strongly these illegal actions, which are in violation of the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and preemptory norms of international law as well as United Nations resolutions, including binding decisions of the Security Council on Cyprus. Furthermore, following the Turkish invasion in 1974 and the occupation of a large part of territory of the Republic of Cyprus, the ports of Famagusta, Karavostasi and Kyrenia were declared closed by the Government to all vessels under law 265 of 3 October 1974.

I would like to stress that these Turkish actions are but the latest of a series of continuing provocative acts by Turkey against Cyprus, manifested by threats of the use of force against the Republic of Cyprus in statements made by key officials of the Turkish Government. These threats were most recently incorporated in the so-called "Joint Declaration" of 20 January 1997 between President Demirel of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Denktash.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. C. DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations